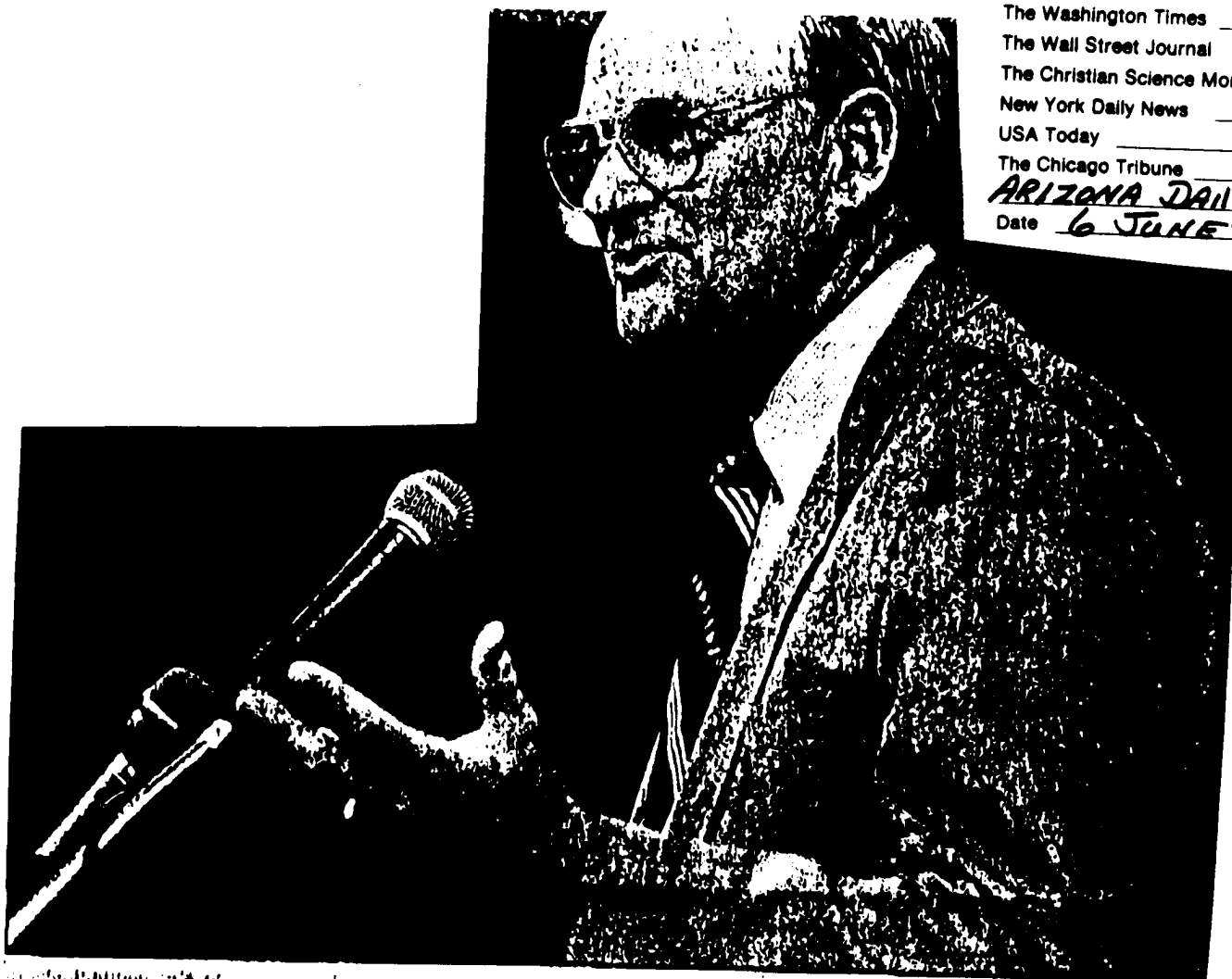


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Richard J. Kerr, CIA deputy director: "Most people in this world respect and fear power and authority and the use of power" Bruce McClelland, The Arizona Daily Star

Aggression is war's loser, CIA official says

By John F. Rawlinson
 The Arizona Daily Star

The quick and successful U.S. response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait will deter other aggressor nations, Richard J. Kerr, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said in Tucson yesterday.

"I think there is no question about it. The Arabs generally, and most people in this world, respect and fear power and authority and the use of power," he said. "Whether we like that, whether we find it a moral thing, or whether we're satisfied with that response is not as relevant as the fact that when they see a response, I think it has a real impact on their behavior."

Kerr, 55, who has been with the CIA since 1960, spoke yesterday at a luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Tucson at the Doubletree Hotel, 445 S. Alvernon Way.

"I think (Libya leader Moammar) Gadhafi was very concerned and worried that as we moved out of the Middle East we might stop by and visit him. As a result, he was very cautious about what he did. People are going to be very careful, particularly about confronting the United States," Kerr said.

Kerr made those remarks during a question-and-answer session following his speech.

In the same session, he said, "From many points of view we regret that Saddam Hussein is still there (in power). He is unfortunately trying to do many of the things he tried to do before the war, like trying to rebuild his military and strengthen his own role. Iraq will not be accepted back into the world with any kind of enthusiasm while he is still in power."

Kerr declined to answer a question about whether the CIA has any objective now to remove

Hussein from power.

One of the keys to the success of Operation Desert Storm, Kerr said, was the clear policy objective set by President Bush.

Also Bush, the secretaries of state and defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are "probably the most informed set of customers about intelligence that we've ever had."

During his speech, Kerr said that while the confrontation between East and West has not ended it has changed in a fundamental way.

In the past 40 years, much of how the United States reacted to the Soviets depended on what that nation did, with the United States ending up on the opposite side.

From a policy and intelligence view, Kerr said, it formerly was believed that one could understand the Soviet Union if one could under-

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stand its top leadership. That isn't true anymore because the top Soviet leadership doesn't understand the Soviet Union, he said.

The Soviet Union is trying to fix its economy by taking the worst of socialism and the worst of capitalism and bring them together, Kerr said.

"It's a disaster. It's kind of like saying we're going to change the direction you drive on the road, but we're not going to do it at one point of time, we're going to do it gradually," the CIA leader said.

Since he joined the CIA, Kerr's duties have included analyzing information on Soviet forces in Cuba during the 1962-63 missile crisis. From 1976 to 1982, he was director or deputy director of several analytic offices with the Directorate of Intelligence. In July 1982 he was appointed associate deputy director for intelligence, and was appointed to his present position on April 21, 1986.